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The Drew Acorn

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Student Government Debates Period Products Concerns

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Editor

IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI

The current board of Student Government senators.

The Drew Student Government has been considering a number of hotly debated topics lately, including an initiative by a group of students who have approached StuGov with the goal of providing women's health products free of charge to Drew students who might need them.

The initiative, planned initially by Aaran Robinson ('28) as well as a number of other students and senators, aims to ensure the availability of various types of menstrual products, such as pads and tampons, around campus for anyone who may find themselves in need of them at any time. Ideas were floated at the StuGov meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8, for implementations of such an initiative, such as a dispenser or a machine to distribute the products in or near some bathrooms, with a fund or drive set up to help mitigate cost.

Robinson said that he believed there were "very few" logistical hurdles when it comes to implementing a system of providing such products, as well as that there are other schools in the area that have successfully implemented these kinds of systems. He pointed out that the university does provide condoms for students (located in the Health Center). Citing the fact that approximately 54% of Drew's undergraduate population is women, he said that providing condoms but not period products would perpetuate a "system of patriarchy" due to the apparent prioritization of products geared towards those who identify as men rather than women.

Robinson, while acknowledging his own position as a cisgender man, cited many experiences that he had watched others around him go through and struggle with as his motivation for bringing forth this measure. "Do not mistake my passion for unrealized idealism," he noted; "Forgive me for coming off headstrong, but don't [think] that I didn't do my research."

He also pointed out the current high cost of women's health products around campus, especially in the C-Store, adding that "we're all [college students] here; our pockets are not full of cash. We should not be having to worry about these very basic necessities." He expressed hope that even if the initiative starts as something "small," it could "hopefully grow" to something larger in scale over time.

Robinson also voiced a general frustration with Student Government as a whole during the meeting, as from his perspective it seemed as if he was "doing [their] work" for them and that StuGov was misplacing their focus. He encouraged StuGov to "host events that actually mean something," and said he believed that "there [was] a simple answer to these issues."

Much of StuGov was divided over the group's proposal. Senator Dejanayha Hill ('27) emphasized "balance" and pointed out that "these things are going to take time," echoed by Senator Breena Stephen ('27).

Senator Ann de Jesús ('28) added that while she supports the proposal, the different needs of different people when it comes to menstrual products may complicate implementation of such an initiative. Senators Mari Centeno ('27) and James Dempsey ('27) commended Robinson's "passion" and acknowledged the merit of the idea, but also noted that StuGov would need to gather data regarding funding and how often it would be necessary to refill any dispensers that would be installed. Vice President for Campus Life Frank Merckx, also present at the meeting, raised some concerns over this as well.

Many other members of StuGov were in favor of the proposal, including Senator Angela Loeser ('27), who argued that providing "health necessities" would be more important than the current heavily event-based projects that StuGov has been working on so far. "What is StuGov's purpose?" she asked. "Is it an event planning committee or is it to make the school better?"

Loeser added that she lives outside ofon the other end of campus away from Tolley-Brown Circle, and believes that students who live in herthat area should not have to travel across campus to the C-Store "in the middle of the night for something that [they] should be able to find in [their] bathroom."

Elections Chair Jordyn Casanova-Ghosh ('28) and Senator Sandra Faragalla ('26) also supported the proposal. Casanova-Ghosh noted that while the Drew Food Pantry does also stock menstrual products that any student can obtain, that resource is not advertised well, and that "if those resources are provided in the food pantry, then they [should also] be provided everywhere." They pointed out high-traffic areas like Brothers College, Commons and the Ehinger Center as potential spots where students could make use of these resources at any time they may need.

Casanova-Ghosh also expressed frustration about understaffing and underresourcing in general at Drew, citing many other departments in which means had been stretched thin. "As students recognize [the lack of action] more and more, they're not going to like the institution that they're at," they added.

During the meeting, it was also announced by President Zaire Wright ('27) that Drew's cash deficit had been eliminated. Subcommittee reports were made and Vice President Daniel Ohr ('26) also announced several upcoming events. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m., and the next one will be held Friday, Nov. 5.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in journalism and sociology.

Senators gathered to discuss the issue of period products.

Image Courtesy of Sabr Keres-Siddiqui

HAVE A TIP?
Email *theacorn@drew.edu* and let us know!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If we truly want to create safer and more inclusive spaces, we have to make it easier for people to share their stories with

SEE **INTERSECTIONALITY**, PG 9

—Sabrina Holmes ('29)

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Any Drew student is welcome to join us for meetings every Thursday at 7p.m. in our office in McLendon.

Or visit *thedrewacorn.com/join* to request more information.

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2 NEWS

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Email *theacorn+news@drew.edu* or visit *thedrewacorn.com/submit-a-tip*

Removal of Blue Light Emergency Phones

Nadia Yusko
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 8, 2025, Drew students received an email from Campus Life and Student Affairs alerting them of the removal of the blue light emergency phones. The department only mentioned one reason for the removal, that being the university's wish to move away from the use of "traditional phone lines."

The two emergency phones were located on opposite sides of the Glenwild parking lot, behind McLendon Hall. The phones worked by having an emergency button that connected and directly called emergency services to the location of the phone.

This action by the university is a stark difference from the wishes demanded and described by a lead editorial published by the Drew Acorn in 2021. This article, "Drew Needs to Improve Emergency Alert Systems," written collectively by the Editorial Board, demanded the installation of more of these blue light emergency phones. It is argued that the phones should be placed in specific locations such as "all parking lots, dorm halls and pathways on campus."

Reasons were also given supporting the need for a higher presence of these phones, such as "providing comfort and safety for parents and students alike," "deterring criminal activity" and being more reliable than a cellphone in a "high-risk emergency situation."

When asked about her thoughts on the blue light emergency pole removal, co-president of the Drew organization HerPath, Nadia Porchetta ('26) stated, "I feel pretty indifferent about the removal, those blue light phones aren't functional, and since my freshman year, they just made a loud buzzing sound."

Porchetta goes on to argue what she believes should be done."What I would like to see are phones that genuinely work and maybe more spaced out on campus, a few along the path and behind some main academic buildings, so walking at night can be a little less anxiety-inducing. I think the app is something that can easily be overlooked by students. I don't think students will take the effort to download it on their phones and set it up. I feel as though safety shouldn't be fully electronic based. If my phone is dead or maybe not on me, and I desperately need help, there should be an alternate option."

With the elimination of blue light emergency phones, the university urges students to download and register for the Live Safe app, which was also complemented by the 2021 article. The app is able to connect students to campus security during an emergency, like the blue light emergency phones do. Other features on the app include alerts for weather-related concerns and alerts for any security-related concerns on the campus.

Nadia Yusko is a first-year who is majoring in psychology.

Drew Welcomes All To The 2025 Open House

Allison Cannon
News Section Editor

Throughout the past few weeks, subtle changes have been made to Drew's campus. The appearance of directional signs, flags on lightposts that read "Welcome Alumni!" or extra maintenance to buildings and landscaping. This would mean one thing: it's open house week.

Open House is a day when prospective students can come to campus and explore what it feels like to be a Drew student. It is also when alumni can come home and retrace old memories.

Many events happened on Saturday, Oct. 11, for both students and alumni. Students and their families were invited to have breakfast with teachers and learn what it means to be a scholar at Drew. Telling stories about past students who proved that being a student is more than just being an academic, a few professors were invited on stage to explain the different sides of Drew's programs.

Director of Civic Engagement, Sean Hewitt, spoke about our Action Scholar program, the vigorous activities first-year students involve themselves in and how those activities can lead to future job opportunities.

Other than delicious free food and time with teachers, the prospective students had an opportunity to learn about our school from alumni panelists.

The alumni spoke in great detail about their time at Drew and how it applies to their current lives outside of school. They spoke of sports and extracurriculars, their achievements in the classroom and what it means to be a student with a specific major.

Even though Drew is always looking towards its future, its past is never far behind.

Alumni of all ages were invited to come to Drew and reconnect with old classmates and colleagues or share stories with people they have never met before. Over drinks and barbecue, alumni spent the afternoon outside, and despite the misty early October weather, many stayed gathered around as announcements were made and tours were put on.

The Student Admissions tour guide team held tours for both prospective students and their families, as well as for alumni. A special ghost tour by the archival team was also held for those interested in the paranormal side of Drew's campus.

While students were shown the ins and outs of what their first year could look like, alumni were brought back to a time when the campus looked a little different.

The tours featured the iconic buildings of Drew, such as the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, the Hall of Sciences, Brown Hall and The Commons, to name a few. Students got to learn about life on campus, while alumni were encouraged to share stories about their time and marvel at what was new.

Alumni as new as the class of 2020 were shocked to see improvements to the buildings and that some things had never changed, while alumni from the class of 1975 expressed their desire to return to such a modern campus.

The open house for October 2025 was certainly a hit among students and staff, with raving reviews from the alumni board of committees and families who came along for the ride.

Allison Cannon is a sophomore who is majoring in psuchology and double minoring in Spanish and law, justice and society.

Image courtesy of the Drew instagram.

Open house collage.

Carlos Andrés Gómez Presents Diversity and Inclusivity

Nadia Yusko
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 10, the Drew DSEM program had the pleasure of inviting speaker and poet Carlos Andrés Gómez to speak to the class of 2029. Gómez led the workshop "Toward a Culturally-Affirming & Inclusive Campus," which covered topics such as social identity, intersectionality and interpersonal communications.

The workshop involved both participation from the students and anecdotes about Gómez's personal experiences with the topics he spoke about. The overall goal of the workshop was stated by Gómez as, "[to] identify where your individual work lies and [to] leave with actionable tools and strategies to be more equitable, inclusive and available."

Gómez is a Columbian American poet and author, born in New York City. He completed higher education at the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's degree in history, and later received a Master in Fine Arts from Wilson College.

Currently, he works as a motivational speaker visiting colleges and universities, but his past list of accomplishments is extremely long. Along with being a published author of his poetry collection "Fractures," which won the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry, he is a two-time International Poetry Slam Champion.

Throughout the workshop, some topics that were included were social identity, stereotypes, privilege, interpersonal relationships and microaggressions. Gómez began the conversation with the topic of social identity, where he presented a wheel of different social identities that everyone has such as age, race, nationality, religion, language, sexuality, gender identity, legal status, socioeconomic status and disability. He then asked students to share different examples of social identity, if they were comfortable, that they think of the most and the least.

Image courtesy of Nadia Yusko.

Carlos Andres Gomez in front of his poster board.

In the same segment, ideas of stereotype and privilege were discussed, as Gómez asked the students to share personal experiences in which they've been stereotyped and how it affected them. Gómez used a metaphor to describe privilege, saying that the presence of privilege was like "a plane fighting against a head wind and having to work harder to get to a place," and the absence of privilege was like "a plane gliding on a tailwind, not working as hard to get to that same place."

In wrapping up this portion of the workshop, Gómez explained that social identities that are privileged and oppressed can exist at the same time. The main ideas behind this segment of the workshop were that students often relate to different identities, the concept that they could be both privileged or oppressed and how to be aware of these personal circumstances, which can also be applied to others.

The ideas of personal identity were then applied on a broader scale in the intersectionality and interpersonal portion of the workshop. Gómez stated, "social identities do not live in silos, they overlap in unique ways." In this section, students were challenged to think about how their own biases can affect the experiences of social identities surrounding them, for example through unconscious bias.

Gómez explained here that unconscious bias is something that people pick up everywhere they go and it can affect their perceptions of other social identities. He explained that it could be as simple as something seen on a "billboard in the car" or even on social media.

This idea of unconscious bias was then tied in with the act of microaggressions and how they can affect the groups and environments that the students connect with others in. The main idea at the end of this segment was for students to be aware of how unconscious biases can lead to microaggressions and hostility in environments. To counteract these behaviors, Gómez encouraged students to attempt "micro inclusions," which can be minor behaviors that include the social identities of others.

When asked for one final message for the Drew University student body in a short interview that followed the workshop, Gómez said, "I would just say take care of each other. I think of the South African concept of Ubuntu, 'I am because you are,' and how all of our well-being depends on each other."

Overall, the topics covered in this workshop gave students some insight into how behaviors in social environments can affect others and provided solutions on how to create inclusivity within diverse environments.

Image courtesy of The Times-Delphic

Embrace Diversity drawing.

Nadia Yusko is a first-year who is majoring in psychology.

Students Explore New Opportunities At Humanities Fair

Delaney Smith
Contributing Writer

With the second semester quickly approaching and course registration on the horizon, students are finding themselves having to make decisions and pick classes relevant to their chosen area of focus. Some students who are interested in majoring in humanities could be found at Brothers College on Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a classics and humanities fair.

Department Chair of Classics John Lenz, who was present at the event, commented on why he believes it is important that students take interest in humanities, especially classics, "classics is for everyone. We are multidisciplinary: the ancient Greeks invented the study of history, philosophy, political science, drama and advanced science."

This event provided students with the opportunity to engage with professors in departments such as classics, history and philosophy, as well as several others. They were also able to pick up flyers at each table, promoting classes within each department and see outlines of required courses they would potentially take if they chose to major or minor in that subject area. This event was especially helpful for individuals in the freshman class who have yet to decide what they are going to declare as their major and minor.

"We must study humanities because being human involves developing yourself, your mind as well as your body," emphasized Lenz. "Life is not all about getting money and jobs and stuff. 'Liberal,' in the original Greek and Roman creation of the liberal arts, means we are free to develop ourselves, our full humanity."

In addition to the classics/humanities fair, other similar events promoting different subject areas and their respective courses will be held around campus for the rest of the month and into November.

"Whatever your major, you will become better educated with some classics and humanities," said Lenz. "The Greeks said, 'know yourself.'"

Delaney Smith is a first-year who is double majoring in English literature and English creative writing and double minoring in history and law,

Discover Your Major: English Info Session With Panelists

Delaney Smith
Contributing Writer

Aspiring English majors had the opportunity to attend a panel of current seniors in the subject. This event took place in Brothers College 120 last Monday, Oct. 20 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Several professors who teach English related courses were also present to answer questions and promote some of their classes.

During the event, the panel of seniors answered a variety of questions from the interested underclassmen. These included discussing their capstone projects, different classes they took for their major that they enjoyed and how intense the coursework is.

One student who spoke of her experience as an English major with a focus in literature was Sophia Argenziana (‘26). She explained that she thinks English is such a great choice for students who are interested in English especially, but that English can also be relevant for any other major also.

Image courtesy of the Blue Diamond Gallery

Creativity on a whiteboard.

“I recommend it because you can really use it for anything,” said Argenziana. “You are going to be doing a lot of writing in college and it is going to help you decide what you are really interested in; if you have that creative side or even if you have more analytical skills.”

Argenziana also made it a point to emphasize the wide range of opportunities that English majors have post graduation. During the panel the students and professors addressed the myth that English majors only have the option to become a teacher. They went on to explain that plenty of professions have a need for those with a background in English.

In addition to the students, the professors took turns introducing themselves and some of the courses that they teach in the English department that would be relevant to prospective English majors. They also took the opportunity to promote some other extracurricular activities that would be of interest to those interested in writing specifically. These included the student-run newspaper, The Acorn, and The Drew Review, a collection of essays from students around the school that is published at the end of the school year.

Professor Courtney Zoffness, who directs the creative writing program, was also present at this event. She spoke to the group about some of the courses that she teaches and commented on why she thinks taking English related classes is important.

“To be a maker of the thing you like to consume has a lot of value,” said Zoffness. “I think the creative writers who take poetry or creative nonfiction or fiction find ways to communicate and combine all of their interests in new ways, and discover elements about themselves that maybe they haven’t explored before. I think that’s the value of art.”

Delaney Smith is a first-year who is double majoring in English literature and English

Major News Outlets Walk Out Of Pentagon Press Office

Katie Germinder
Opinions Section Editor

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, several reporters from the Pentagon press office walked out of the Pentagon carrying boxes of files, chairs and even an entire copying machine. Fox News was among the big news corporations who refused to follow the new Pentagon press policy.

The new rules put into place by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth would restrict reporters from being transparent about military activity, requiring them to get approval from Hegseth’s team. It was initially proposed two weeks ago, already causing worry amongst the journalist community. The deadline for reporters to accept these terms was on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2025 at 4 p.m. Many waited until that exact time to give their press passes back before leaving their offices for the foreseeable future.

These rules are a direct violation of First Amendment rights and threaten journalistic protections. Hegseth has pledged to make this the most transparent Department of Defense in history, however since then there has been a decrease in communication between the military and civilians.

Many of the press correspondents, such as David Martin, had been reporting at the Pentagon since the 1980s. Between the 80s and now, many global conflicts involving the United States broke out, such as the First Gulf War and 9/11. The journalists who had press access were able to get an inside view on each conflict by being able to talk directly to the Defense Department and get the whole story out to the American public. Without major news outlets getting information about U.S. conflicts, there will be a lack of transparency to American citizens and the rest of the world about what is going on inside the Department of Defense.

The Pentagon claims that the primary reason they have implemented the new policies is to prevent press leaks and have control over all news stories covering topics related to The Department of Defense. Reporters will still do everything they can to get the accurate facts out to everyone without Pentagon interference and involvement.

The plan for most of the evicted press offices is to move locations and start working remotely with their new limited access to the pentagon.

The news stations that have decided to pull out of Pentagon press access are all independently run, much like many student-run newspapers across the country. Drew University has its own newspaper of this kind and covers news, student life, sports and opinions. By being independent, the Acorn is able to report on what they wish without any interference from the university’s president or any other member of administration. It is a freedom that many people are starting to realize is becoming endangered and one that news outlets are struggling to hang

Katier Germinder is a junior who is double majoring in environmental studies and sustainability and minoring in

Image courtesy of WikiMedia Commons.

Overhead view of the Pentagon.

5 STUDENT LIFE&ARTS
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Theatre & Dance Presents Fall 2025 Debut Set

Jaden Finn
Assistant SLA Editor

On the weekend of Oct. 16-18, the Theatre & Dance Department presented the Fall 2025 Debut Set. The set featured three plays directed by students in the Advanced Directing class, THEA 345. The production team was also composed of eleven other students across design (costumes, lights, props, scenic and sound), stage management and dramaturgy. The performances were incredibly successful, with a sold-out show on Friday, and over 50 audience members in attendance at both the Thursday and Saturday evening performances.

The first play, "Like a Jet-Fueled Mariposa", written by the Alebrije Writers Collective, was directed by Lexi DeRonde ('26). "Like a Jet-Fueled Mariposa" tells the story of two Hispanic girls living in a politically and environmentally dangerous not-so-distant future. Zu, the older sister, struggles to find peace in a world that is constantly attacking her community and family. Fely, the younger sister, hopes to use her robotics skills to build a new future. DeRonde noted, "I hope that as you [saw] 'Like a Jet-Fueled Mariposa', you [felt] the weight of the challenges immigrant communities face, but also the beauty that blooms within them."

The second play, "The Tell-Tale Heart", written by Edgar Allan Poe, was directed by Caroline Danner ('26). "The Tell-Tale Heart" follows Young, the unreliable narrator, as he descends into madness. The eerie, black-cloaked "shudders" portray Young's delusions, giving the audience a glimpse into his distress. While Young strives to convince the audience of his sanity, his lack thereof ultimately leads to the death of the other main character, Old. Jakob Spotts ('28), who portrayed Old, said, "my favorite part about Debut Set was being with some of the most hard-working, funny, talented people I have ever seen."

The third play, "The Proposal", written by Anton Chekhov, was directed by Casey Cornwell ('27). "The Proposal" tells the story of hypochondriac Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov, who intends to propose to his neighbor's daughter, Natalya Stepanova Chubukov. However, the two, as well as Natalya's mother -adjusted from the original where the character was male- Stephanka Stephanovich Chubukov, get into ridiculous arguments. The play was an audience favorite, with all erupting in hysterical laughter throughout. Halie Benway ('28), who portrayed Stephanka, reflected, "I enjoyed working together as a team to create such a beautiful night of theater. Although there were three separate [plays], we all collectively took the time to craft one story. It was such a pleasure working with everyone. We laughed, cried, but most importantly, we all were there [because] we had a passion and drive for theatre and that's something we will never forget."

Jaden Finn is a sophomore majoring in Environmental

Art History Club Celebrates the Halloween Season

Skylar Anderson
Copy Editor

The Art History Club hosted its first event of the semester in celebration of the Halloween season. On Oct. 16, students gathered in The Space in the Ehinger Center to watch part of the Cartoon Network series "Over the Garden Wall" and make vintage-themed Halloween crafts.

The event created a cozy, relaxed and pleasant space for students, providing a nice break from the stress of midterm season and an opportunity to get in the festive spirit. With commentary from the president of the Art History Club, Maddy Koory ('27), on the historical relevance of different parts of the series, like the setting, the clothes worn by the characters and the architecture seen in some episodes, this event also gave viewers a very informative perspective on the series, especially for those who had never watched it before. Koory encouraged discussion from others, asking how they felt about the series, why the historical setting might be vague and what opinions they had on the characters or the storylines.

After watching each segment, Koory highlighted a specific part of the episode that referenced an aspect of history, paired with a real-life comparison to the reference. These included historical and art historical photos that showed a Rococo-style ceiling, an early 1900s woman's walking outfit and antique iron schoolhouse desks, to name a few. Each of these photos provided a special context to the references in the series, giving first-time and seasoned watchers alike a more nuanced frame of reference with which to view the series.

While watching and discussing the series, students busied themselves with making Halloween crafts and sipping from cups full of apple cider. They had the opportunity to express their creativity by painting wooden pumpkin cutouts, making a vintage-style Halloween paper garland, cutting out paper ghost decorations or using the assortment of colored paper, paint and craft supplies available to make their own unique creation.

The atmosphere of the room was cheerful throughout the event, and many students opted to stay past the end of the prepared clips of the series to finish their crafts or spend more time with friends. Everyone left satisfied, taking home some new festive decorations for their rooms and a new show to watch for the fall season.

To stay up to date on future events hosted by the Art History Club, follow @drewarthistoryclub on Instagram or on The Path under the name Art History and Museum Studies Club.

Skylar Anderson is a junior majoring in Art and Anthropology.

Hispanic Heritage Month's Grand Finale

Jadelyn Villa
Contributing Writer

In a collaborative effort to end Hispanic Heritage Month with a bang, ARIEL and La Casa Latina hosted Carnaval de la Latinidad, closing out Hispanic Heritage Month on Drew's campus in one final burst of cultural song, dance, games and food. The event took place on Oct. 14 in Crawford Hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., where student organization DrewFIRST also highlighted first-generation student successes.

The evening began with a presentation on the origins of Hispanic Heritage Month, conducted by members of the executive board of ARIEL, alongside select Hispanic cuisine. The dinner table included croquettes, beef and cheese empanadas, maduros (fried overripe sweet plantains) and tostones (fried unripe savory plantains). There was also a large assortment of snacks, drinks and candy, the most popular options being Jarritos soda, plátano chips and Bon Bon Bum lollipops.

The food was catered from Delikositas in Madison and El Portal Restaurante in Morristown, with both establishments well-known for their Colombian dishes. Various ARIEL and HHM merchandise colored the table, free for students to represent their ethnicities with pride while learning about the foundations of this annual celebration.

The observance dates back to Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency, where he established the recognition initially as one week in 1968. Twenty years later, under President Ronald Reagan, the week was expanded to a month-long acknowledgement of the culture and contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States.

The slideshow also covered other topics about the holiday, like the exclusivity of the term "Hispanic" in correlation with "Latin," as well as the several different independence days of Latin American countries that fall within the month, such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile and Belize.

Afterwards, a Kahoot! game was launched, testing the attendees' newfound knowledge of Hispanic Heritage Month. Nearly the entire room was filled with tables engaging in the competition, and the first-place winner received a gift basket.

Shortly after, a piñata full of Latin American treats was positioned by the podium. Each string was held tight, and on the count of three, everyone pulled, and candy poured out onto the floor. Students were encouraged to gather as much as they could hold into their complimentary ARIEL mini tote bags, which they were handed upon signing in to the event, before karaoke began, where hit artists such as Jeanette, Don Omar and Rauw Alejandro soundtracked the carnaval's closing.

Jadelyn Villa is a junior majoring in English and minoring in Teaching.

Crafts and Creations at Ecofest

Casey Bush
Copy Editor

On a beautiful and sunny day, student vendors gathered outside of the Ehinger Center on Oct. 17 for the Drew Environmental Action League's second annual Ecofest.

Student vendors sold handmade items, and Drew clubs had tables fundraising and advertising their group's goals. This event was widely successful, with all of the tables getting much attention from students who stopped by.

The students selling items at this event got to keep most of their earnings, and 10 percent of the proceeds were donated to The Great Swamp Watershed Association, an organization in Morristown that focuses on fun outdoor events, boosting community strength, advocating for clean water and educating people on healthy habits.

The DEAL members thought it was important to donate to a local organization to promote community and to strengthen DEAL's partnerships outside of Drew.

"This is our second annual Ecofest, and the first one was a big success, so we wanted to bring it back for another year," said DEAL President Katie Germinder ('27).

Some students sold a mix of crochet items, such as tapestries and earring holders from one vendor, and animals, coasters and roses from another.

Ashley Boateng ('29) was another student vendor who sold crochet hats and headbands. "This was my first time doing Ecofest, and I hope they do it again next year because then I can come prepared and bring my whole collection," she said.

Other popular tables included handsewn purses, bags and scrunchies from another Drew student, as well as stickers, cards, wristlets and more from others.

There were other tables that were fundraising and promoting various causes, including the Drew Performing Arts Accessibility Coordinators. This organization was selling earrings and enlightening many students about their main goals. These goals are to discuss and educate others on accessibility and disability, and to provide valuable accessibility resources to theatre performances.

The Drew Student Voter Project had a table as well, where they were encouraging students to register to vote and giving out stickers and American flags.

Other vendors offered their services to student customers, such as henna tattoos, where students could pick whatever design and placement they desired.

Faustyna Przedworska ('29), who provided the henna tattoos, said, "It was really cool seeing what other people can do."

Many students who made crafts for this event also allowed students to submit personalized orders through social media, which they would create especially for the customer.

DEAL is hosting a sustainability food fest in the coming weeks and working on other events within their partnerships both on and off campus, which students can be on the lookout for.

Casey Bush is a sophomore majoring in Psychology.

Asian Student Union Hosts Sushi Social

Nathaniel Ferrone
Staff Writer

On Oct. 17, the Asian Student Union invited the Drew Community to "get hands-on with Japanese culture" during their Sushi Social, hosted in Crawford Hall. Students and faculty had the opportunity to learn how to assemble traditional Japanese rice dishes such as maki, onigiri and musubi, while also fostering community, cultural appreciation and a shared love of great food.

The goal behind hosting the Sushi Social was "to teach students about traditional Japanese meals while providing them with dining options beyond what's available on campus," said Stephanie Huang ('26), ASU's marketing and engagement officer. "On top of that, we wanted to bring an authentic taste of home to the Asian and Asian American community here at Drew."

When asked how events like this align with ASU's overall mission, Huang explained that "ASU strives to create a safe and welcoming space for people of all ethnic backgrounds on campus and aims to foster a community inclusive to anyone who wants to learn more about Asian cultures, whether they're students or faculty. By bringing the Drew community together through something as universal as food and having them participate in the hands-on learning experience of building Japanese meals, Sushi Social accomplished just that."

ASU members and attendees were thrilled by the turnout and enthusiasm. "We were really glad to see so many students and faculty not only enjoying the food but also having fun assembling their own, customizable meals," Huang said. "Several of our guests came back for more! It was great to see the weeks of planning and prep work we put into it pay off."

Aira Poticano ('26), president of ASU, shared what she hopes attendees took away from the experience: "We hope that students had a fun time making sushi and getting hands-on with Japanese culture. We wanted them to experiment with different types of rolls and learn the background behind them."

Looking towards the future, ASU has more prospective events. "ASU is excited to create even more memorable and educational experiences for Drew students," Poticano said. "Last spring semester, we organized a new event called the APIDA Heritage Month Mixer, and with the turnout we received, we plan to make it a yearly tradition. At this networking event, students of all ethnic backgrounds are invited to converse with peers and faculty members of Asian heritage about their thoughts on relevant cultural topics."

Huang added that ASU will continue to share upcoming events and updates through Instagram and its newsletter. "Every fall semester, ASU plans to make each year better than the last. Drew can expect the return of some of our biggest events, such as Lunar New Year, the APIDA Heritage Month Mixer, and Night in Asia. We're always looking to get more people involved."

The Sushi Social became more than a culinary event; it was a celebration of Asian culture and community. Through experiences like this that foster cultural awareness, ASU continues to build connections and communities. As the semester continues to unfold, Drew students should look forward to more enticing opportunities to learn about others and socially connect.

Students who are interested in joining and participating in the ASU can reach out via Instagram (@drew_asu) or email asu@drew.edu.

Nathaniel Ferrone is a first-year student majoring in Philosophy and English.

Actors onstage at Debut Set.

Image Courtesy of Jaden Finn ('28).

OPINIONS

SPEAK UP!
OPINIONS EDITOR: KATIE GERMINDER kgerminder@drew,edu
Submit a letter to the editor or contribute an opinion piece (500 WORDS APROX). Email theacorn+opinions@drew.edu

School Policy: What's Going On? Where are our Updates?

LEAD EDITORIAL

We the People
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

A picture of the United States Constitution

IMAGE COURTESY OF MESSENGER PAPERS

Last year, Drew University made a preliminary update to the policy on freedom of expression, with the preface that the copy would be revised later in the school year. It has been a whole year since the policy was revised, and there has not been any message, update or announcement from the school about the policy.

The Freedom of Expression Policy is an important document that states what students are allowed to do in relation to school property, such as hanging posters for clubs or personal reasons in hallways or classrooms.

This document also states the punishments that can occur when a student breaks those rules.

Revisions to this document were put into effect on Aug. 27, 2024, and feedback was set to be reviewed in December of that year.

It has been almost a year since then, and there have not been any updates sent out to the students regarding the policy.

Why has there not been any action or communication from the school since the 2024 school year?

The school sent out numerous emails during the 2024 school year regarding the situation, but after the publication of an Acorn article about this issue, there has not been a confirmed update.

Are we as students supposed to presume that the current document is the correct and most updated version? What if there have been further changes that the student body is not aware of?

During the course of this school year, students have asked the Acorn to do favors for their clubs, such as hanging up posters in dorm buildings or passing them around in the commons. What strikes us as confusing is that they think that those actions are allowed.

Under the updated freedom of expression policy, students need to have specific permission from the university to hang up or place posters that advertise their club.

This is a rather important portion of the policy, since most of the time, students either don't know that they have to get permission to hang their posters up, or they don't care.

I mention this specifically because most students are not aware that this is a rule, but there are a few who are.

Club leaders are the exclusive few who are given updates on the importance of the policy and other rules that would affect their club.

It makes sense as to why club leaders are given yearly reminders as to what rules they have to follow. We have so many clubs on campus that we need to be strict with how they are run, since student life is a direct representation of the university.

But why are club leaders the only students who get to know? Why do they get a document spelled out to them explaining the rules while other students have no idea these rules exist?

First years are given so many resources at the beginning of the year, but the document that explains their rights as a student on this campus is not one of them.

As a group who are highly aware of the situation and the rules that fall under the policy, we are also aware that these very important rules are not enforced in the way that they are written.

This policy was updated after a complaint about Drew was filed with the United States Education Department's Office of Civil Rights about a student protest in the spring of 2024. It was crucial to Drew University that this policy be updated and changes be made. However, we are still waiting for this policy to have a follow-through.

This policy has been affecting students without their knowledge, and the school hasn't been taking the action that it says it will.

If students are not allowed to hang posters in hallways without permission, why has there not been punishment for student organizations? If chalk writing needs to be approved and washed away after a certain amount of time, why has the school not said anything about it?

Why make changes to a policy if you are not going to enforce it?

It seems silly and obvious that to enforce these rules 24/7, the school would have to be constantly watching over the students, but this is what the policy says should be happening.

Why is there such a disconnection between the expectations that the school has set and the actions that they have not been taking?

It is crucial to point out that access to the policy on freedom of expression is difficult to obtain.

After logging on to Treehouse and directing to the student handbook, which holds all the information a student could ever need, you have to go digging if you want to find the freedom of expression policy.

Currently, the policy is under the mission page of "Daniel's Dictionary", along with many of the other school policies. But when you try to download the document or open the page, it redirects you to a "404 page not found" error message.

Having tried looking up the policy on the school website, all that can be found are the standard community guidelines and that broken link in "Daniel's Dictionary".

This policy is important, and it has certainly been said so by the school. In an email sent out by Terrance Somesla-McCornell, the Coordinator of Student Engagement and Club Life, on Sep. 9, 2024, all club leaders had to review the new policies and manuals for the upcoming school year.

In an email sent out by President Hilary Link on Jan. 22, 2024, a revision of "University Policies and Student Organization Charters" and an "Increase Transparent Communication to the Community" would be effectively coming to Drew within the next year.

In reality, the policy on freedom of expression does impact clubs much more than it does any individual student.

Clubs have to follow the rules in order to stay afloat. To maintain their budget and to make sure the community guidelines are followed, clubs on campus have a high expectation set upon them.

The club life manual is the one-stop shop for answers to any question a club leader might have. It is a useful tool given to students who want to start a club or expand on an idea they might have.

As important as this tool is, it falls under the same problem that the policy on freedom of expression does. Where is it, and why doesn't everyone know about it?

After an unsuccessful attempt to find the manual on the official website, a quick search on "Daniel's Dictionary" provides an insightful page on what club life is like on campus and a link to the manual. But once you search on The Path, the school's official site for all club event postings and updates, there is no mention of the manual.

Unfortunately, not every student uses the student handbook, and for that to be the only link to an important resource is counterproductive to the effectiveness of the manual.

In another more recent email sent to Somesla-McCornell, the Acorn asked where the club life manual is in order to write this article about it. He answered, "of course! It is on the path under student engagement documents, but I will also attach a copy here."

The Acorn is thankful for Somesla-McCornell for providing us with a copy of the manual, but our efforts are still unsatisfactory since once again we have been directed to go to a website, but cannot find the location of the manual.

Drew University has promoted a message of open communication and productivity towards our important school policy, but in the eyes of the students, they have been falling short.

Once again, we ask if these documents are so important to the functioning of our school, why have we not seen a broader message to the student body explaining them? Why are these documents so hard to find, and why is it difficult to get a straight answer regarding them?

The lead editorial is the collective opinion of the editorial board.

Award-winning Author Explores Themes of Mental Health

Delaney Smith
Contributing Writer

IMAGE COURTESY OF FREERANGE STOCK

An open book with wedding rings in the center.

CONTENT WARNING: Mentions of depression and suicide

Is 40 years old too late to start your life over? This is the question that Phoebe Stone, the protagonist of the novel "The Wedding People" by Alison Espach, is asking herself.

Espach is well known for her other novels, "Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance" and "The Adults." "The Wedding People," which was named a New York Times best-selling novel, was published on July 30, 2024.

After being trapped in her house throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with a failing marriage that ended in divorce and losing interest in her career as a college English professor, Phoebe develops severe depression and starts having suicidal thoughts. Her mental health journey takes her to the Cornwall Inn, an upscale hotel in Newport, Rhode Island, where she plans on spending one last luxurious day before taking her own life.

Unbeknownst to her, the hotel has been completely booked by a wedding party. One thing leads to another, and Phoebe runs into the bride herself, a young, wealthy woman named Lila Winthrop. Lila is determined not to let anything, including Phoebe, ruin her wedding week. Phoebe soon finds herself making unlikely friendships, falling for a man who is strictly off limits, rediscovering her passion for English and learning how to feel alive again.

"The Wedding People" is an incredible story for individuals of all ages who may be going through an event similar to Phoebe or are just struggling with mental health in general. Espach excels at portraying the less obvious signs of depression that many experience. When writing Phoebe's internal monologue, she includes small, self-deprecating comments that almost go unnoticed to the reader, but are crucial to making her struggles all the more real.

As someone who considers myself an avid reader, this book is one of the few that I have deemed worthy of five stars on my Goodreads. Espach creates this strikingly real experience that made it hard for me to put the book down. I found myself immediately connected to Phoebe's character, and was rooting for her and her journey of self-discovery from the very beginning. Even though she is a fictional character, I was able to see all of her incredible qualities that she lost sight of as she experienced these hardships in her life.

Part of the enjoyment I get out of reading is making annotations and putting tabs in my books to mark my favorite parts and to keep me engaged in the story. "The Wedding People" was no exception. Espach used Phoebe's expertise in the English language to include several beautifully articulated quotes that I couldn't help but make note of. Unfortunately, my copy is not at school with me, so I can't provide a direct example; however, I can share that on several occasions, I found myself setting the book down and staring at the wall for a few minutes to process the depth of what I had read.

It was so beautiful and inspiring to watch Phoebe rediscover her passions and fall in love with other people and, more importantly, with herself. I cannot recommend this book enough and am looking forward to reading more novels by this author.

Delaney Smith is a first-year majoring in English litrature and creative writing, minoring in law, justice and society.

The Dying Art of Expression: Free Speech in Trump's America

Jadelyn Villa
Contributing Writer

The First Amendment is very important to citizens of the United States, no matter what side of the political spectrum one may lean towards. It is a deeply innate American concept, stemming all the way back to pre-Revolutionary ideology. According to a pre-election poll conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, two-thirds of Americans claimed that the protection of free speech is very important to their vote, making it the second most important factor over others like crime, immigration and healthcare.

The irony of this Oct. 2024 survey lies within the effective result of the presidential race: Donald Trump retaking the White House this January.

Now, nearly a full year after the election, we must reflect on the consequences of the decision many Americans made at the ballot box–ICE crackdowns in major cities, defunding the Department of Education, the persistent disregard for climate change and the list goes on. In political circumstances such as these, ethical journalism is needed now more than ever.

However, what happens when the very fabric of the media begins to unravel at the hands of government control and propaganda?

People across the world saw perhaps the most overt case of censorship during this round of Trump's presidency just this past month, when "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" got temporarily taken off-air due to the host's comments on Charlie Kirk's assassination, after simply insinuating that the perpetrator could've been a member of Kirk's own political party.

Not only was the man who attempted to assassinate President Trump last year a registered Republican, but we also see examples of conservative white men committing large acts of violence far too often in similar tragedies. Yet, a completely plausible statement was publicly condemned for its "insensitivity."

This isn't the first time this type of censorship has happened. In 2001, shortly after the horrific 9/11 attacks in Manhattan, commentator Bill Maher on his show "Politically Incorrect" condemned the U.S. government and military regarding their violence and occupation in the Middle East. Objectively criticizing those in positions of authority seems to be discouraged, as if both empathy and love for one's country cannot coexist with cognitive analysis.

This idea is not only seen in broadcasting media, but it is also seen in education. Once DEI policies in schools were deconstructed, teachers and students no longer felt safe challenging harmful pedagogy and discussing "controversial" topics on race and gender. Even assembling as communities became difficult under the watchful eye of the current administration.

As a marginalized student in the realm of academia, I can say that I have seen this diversion of organization and curriculum first-hand– and it's nerve-wracking to say the least.

The ceaseless content output of social media isn't safe either. Just weeks before Trump retook office, internet Instagram-Facebook giant Meta announced that it would remove its fact-checking features on both apps, furthering the spread of misinformation and unguided political conversation. In a perfect dance of immoral filtering code, Instagram was also seen limiting search results for the word "Democrat" after inauguration day.

Similar algorithm censorship occurred on TikTok, where its counterpart "Republican" faced little-to-no restrictions – how incredibly appropriate and profitable for the United States government.

In this newfound era of blatant indoctrination and misinformation, the freedom of the press itself is at stake. Journalist Mario Guevara, a Salvadoran seeking asylum from threats in his home country, was recently deported on the basis of "immigration violations." But what were his crimes? Why was he detained in the first place?

Well, Guevara almost exclusively covered ICE raids in the Latino community.

Being arrested because of the truthful nature of one's work, let alone being completely withdrawn from the country, is morbidly reflective of the state of present-day American journalism. Additionally, policy changes in the Pentagon now forbid reporters from covering anything regarding the Department of Defence's affairs without government authorization, with dire consequences for press credentials if it is not acknowledged.

This insatiable desire for control is unfathomably dangerous for the media and the state of education in the United States. It puts the people's sources for information through an autocratic filter, denying them the right to unfiltered access to news and ideas. As the country moves further away from the principles of democracy, it's becoming increasingly clear that free speech in the U.S. is under attack.

So buckle up, America– we're in this First Amendment fight for the long haul, and we aren't stopping anytime soon.

Jadelyn Villa is a junior majoring in English creative writing, minoring in teaching.

People stand with signs in protest. Image Courtesy of Jadelyn Villa

Trump Weaponizes the Law to Serve His Own Political Agenda

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Section Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 9, New York State Attorney General Letitia James was formally indicted for bank fraud in Virginia. The charges come as Vox Media reports that James had been subject to a "federal investigation" concerning a vacation home she owns in the state. However, "investigators had previously been unable to find evidence that she committed a crime" nor that she intentionally altered the records she was charged with manipulating in any way.

The charges come as Donald Trump weaponizes more and more agencies and laws to target his political enemies and rivals, twisting regulations and taking a heavy "rules for thee, but not for me" approach to the federal justice system. The previous attorney for that area of Virginia, Erik Siebert, resigned under pressure from the Trump administration in late September after refusing to bring charges against James. Trump later posted online that "he didn't quit, I fired him!" and had previously (despite initially nominating Siebert himself in May) told reporters that he wanted Siebert "out" because of the support that he had gained from Virginia's two Democratic senators.

Trump said, "When I saw that he got approved by those two men, I said, pull it, because he can't be any good," ABC News reports. He also called the two senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, "absolutely terrible, sleazebag Democrat Senators, from the Great State of Virginia" in another post online.

James' lawyer, Abbe Lowell, told reporters that Siebert's forced departure was a "brazen attack on the rule of law," adding that "firing people until he finds someone who will bend the law to carry out his revenge has been the President's pattern–and it's illegal."

Trump has since installed Lindsey Halligan, who was formerly his personal lawyer, according to Vox Media, to Siebert's position. In another online post directed towards U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, Trump asked, "What about Comey, Adam 'Shifty' Schiff, Leticia??? They're all guilty as hell, but nothing is going to be done…JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!" Halligan has since overseen the indictments of both former Director of the FBI James Comey as well as Attorney General James.

As Lowell said, "[this] sends a clear and chilling message that anyone who dares uphold the law over politics will face the same fate." Since the very day that Trump took office again, it seems that his entire administration has been mainly focused on two things: brutally attacking America's most vulnerable populations (in many cases at the cost of their lives) and eliminating anyone in the political sphere who disagrees with him at any cost.

Having taken the hatchet almost immediately to any and all minority populations, Trump routinely blasts anyone who dares express an opinion not exactly aligned with his, and manipulates—and even many times flagrantly ignores (see my previous coverage of his unconstitutional oversight of Immigration & Customs Enforcement)—the U.S. Constitution.

He has repeatedly attempted to eliminate birthright citizenship, one of the fundamental tenets of the 14th Amendment. He has forced entire communities at colleges, universities and K-12 schools alike to live in fear and self-censorship lest they incur his administration's wrath. Not even the lives of America's vulnerable future are sacred to him; he oversaw the complete removal of the records of transgender children from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's database back in February under one of his many executive order sprees.

Even now, he continues to display a blatant disregard and apparent disdain for American democracy. In response to the massive number of Americans (more than 7 million, according to WIRED) who turned out for the nationwide "No Kings" protest on Oct. 19, he posted an AI-generated video of himself wearing a crown and flying a fighter jet labelled "King Trump" while dumping what NBC News says "appeared to be feces" on peaceful demonstrators.

Trump's relentless attacks on the very foundations of American democracy, not to mention his apparent view of himself as some kind of monarch, clearly shows that he sees the rule of law as nothing more than a weapon that he can twist and manipulate as he likes to use against anyone whom he wishes to target. Despite the unprecedented numbers of Americans expressing their dissent at the now two nationwide protest movements that have been sparked against his administration, Trump continues to rain political, economic and social chaos on the U.S. as he pleases.

If this country cannot see that it has elected a wannabe dictator even as he quite literally posts a video calling himself a king, what else will it not see? What will it take for America to finally, decisively stand up to him? A former board member of the NCMEC said in February, "If [America is] willing to capitulate to this, then the logical question must be asked: who's next?"

Picture of President Donald Trump.

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junor majoring in politcal science, minoring in sociology.

Diversity Training in Schools: What is Not Working

Sabrina Holmes
Contributing Writer

In theory, diversity training and workshops are meant to foster a sense of community and promote empathy amongst a student body. In practice, many students walk away from them feeling drained and more disconnected than before.

"A general thought is that for the issues that arise with diversity and inclusion, it's great to have sessions that are in person, highly interactive and immersive," poet and speaker Carlos Andrés Gómez said.

This statement rings true; however, students still find themselves distracted from the real issues–and more importantly, each other. While there are countless benefits to having events in colleges that foster diversity and community, many think that there are better ways to do it.

On Oct. 10, the first-year class of 2029 went to a diversity workshop taught by Andrés Gómez. The lecture itself was informative, but if one were to walk into the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at nine a.m., they would see half of the room engrossed with their phones.

Why? For many, it is because they feel forced to be there.

The whole purpose of these workshops is to foster a safe space where differences can be celebrated, especially with the ever-changing political landscape of the United States. For many people, these workshops are not an effective way to address these issues.

It is easier to connect with a smaller group of people, especially when you are first entering an environment such as college. Most of us would agree that it is far easier to connect with five people than it is to connect with 90 random people. If we truly want to create safer and more inclusive spaces, we have to make it easier for people to share their stories with others.

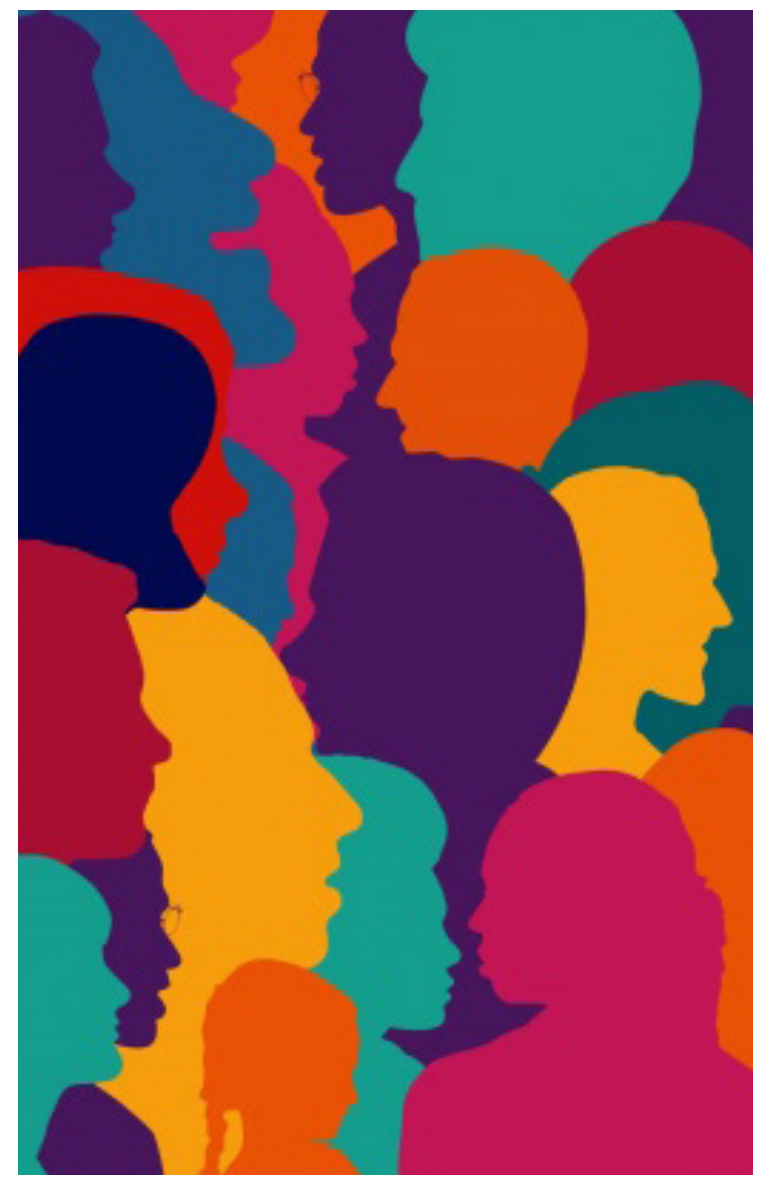
I don't think that many of us, especially the first-year class, feel safe enough to stand up in front of a room of our peers and talk about the ways that stereotypes have affected us.

I fundamentally agree with Andrés Gómez when he says that in-person and interactive sessions are the way to go. It is so valuable to have a room where the option exists to share your thoughts and experiences; however, many students don't utilize this option. These workshops should not be another box to check on the way to graduation, but should be more engaging for the attending students.

Instead of requiring large numbers of students to go to a concert hall early in the morning, there should be options for smaller groups of students to connect with each other, even if it is mandatory. These could be facilitated by speakers like Andrés Gómez, who have extensive experience in these types of conversations.

There is so much potential for growth in these conversations, and there is such a need for us to do better with how we approach them.

Sabrina Holmes is a first-year exploring her major.



Colorful collage of people.

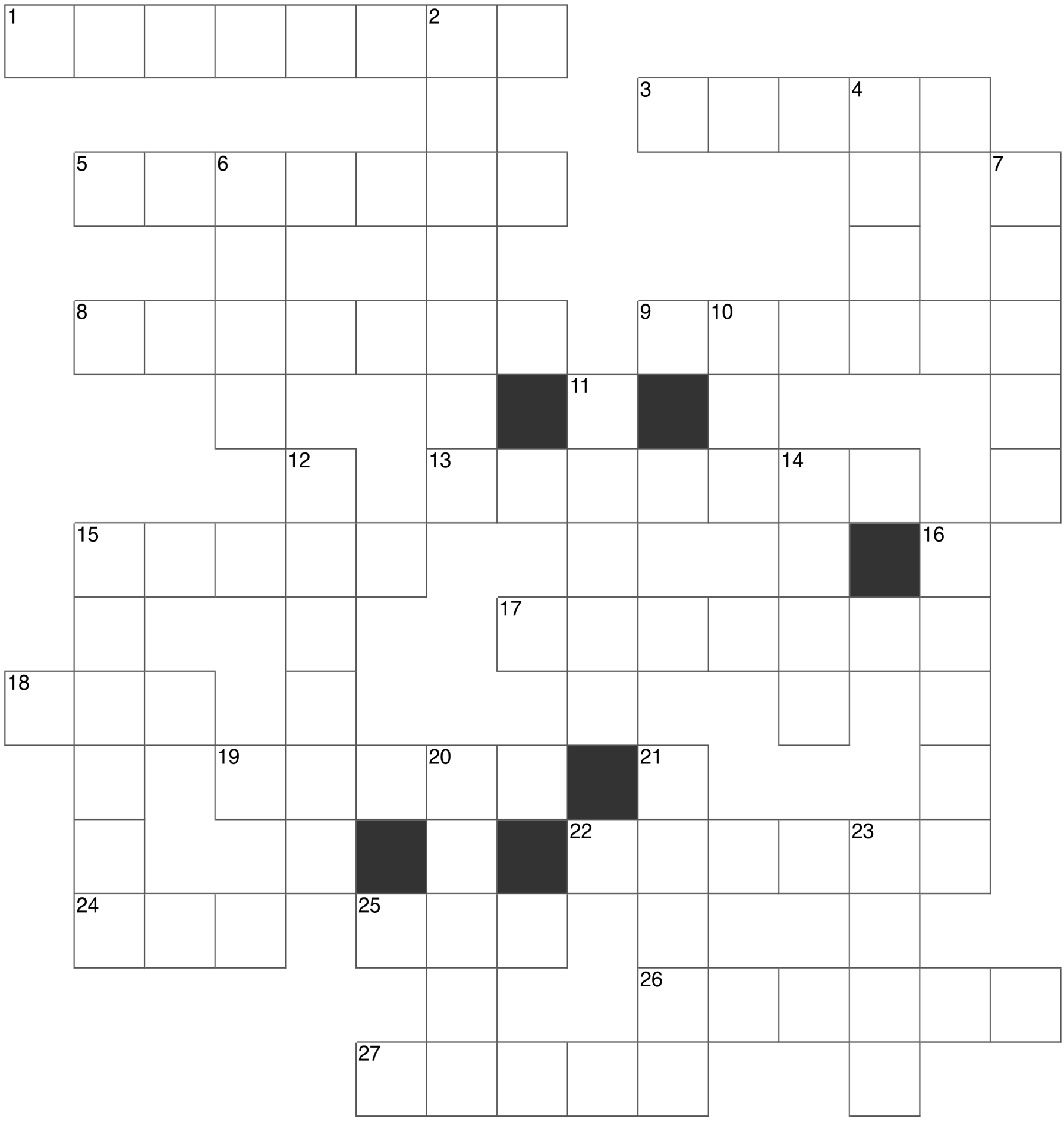
Image Courtesy of Public Domain Picures

10 DIVERSIONS

HAVE IDEAS?

Submit your art, photography and more by emailing *theacorn@drew.edu*
or visit join the Acorn by visiting *thedrewacorn.com/join*

Work Your Magic on This Spooky Crossword!



Across

1. A witch's cooking pot
3. A burial spot
5. A carved gourd for Halloween
8. A ghostly, spooky illusion
9. Causing an unsettling feeling
13. A ghostly apparition
15. A spell-casting woman with a cackle
17. Spooky and grotesque, like a ghoul
18. Flying creature of the night
19. Sharp teeth of a vampire
22. Sudden fear
24. A magic spell or evil charm
25. A sudden spooky sound to startle
26. Strands in an old, dusty house
27. A color often associated with witches

Down

2. Suggesting something bad is coming
4. Extremely unpleasant feeling
6. A low sound of pain or grief
7. An underground burial chamber
10. A rodent found in dark places
11. An evil supernatural being
12. A loud cry of fear
14. Profoundly immoral, spooky force
15. A ghostly, spooky figure
16. Apparition in a haunted house
20. An evil spirit, often grotesque
21. Part of a Halloween phrase
23. A mournful sound from a wolf

Want to Play Online?

Navigate the Forest By Finding All the Words Below!

P N E L P A M A R B B N L Y M
N H R R H E R O S U E E E O U
N A E O E C O K N I Y R F P S
R E R A C T R D A E P N R L H
E R T K S A E I R K O A R Y R
F S N O N R N I B A N O W W O
P I N E S S S K R L A E I O O
L U E T R B E T U S C S L O M
T E O R Y A R E W I E E D D F
N R R Y L A K A R E E D L L B
Y R E R I E R F R T S D I A K
S O S L I M A R I V E R F N Y
C R S E L U B V V N E Q E D E
B N O L O H Q S E H C N A R B
V L M N H F E S I S L E I L R

Acorn
Bark
Berry
Birch
Branches
Canopy
Deer
Fern
Lake
Leaves
Maple
Moss
Mushroom
Oak
Pine
River
Roots
Squirrel
Trail
Trees
Understory
Wildlife
Woodland

Want to Play Online?

COMING UP

Get live stats @GoDrewRangers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25,
WFENCE vs. Temple
Philadelphia, PA
8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
MSOC vs. Scranton
Madison, NJ
7:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
FH vs. Scranton
Madison, NJ
7:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31
WVB vs. Moravian
Bethlehem, PA
7:00 PM

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INSIDE:

Try to solve our Spooky Crossword!

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Rainy Weather Not Enough to Stop Alumni Day Festivities

Marley Wetzel
Contributing Writer

On the weekend of Oct. 11, the Drew athletics alumni returned to campus to revisit their talent on the field and court. Our current athletics teams shot them down in a clean sweep.

Starting the weekend on Friday night in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, several former Drew athletes were inducted into the Drew Athletics Hall of Fame for 2025. The 1985 women's softball team was recognized as a "Team of Distinction," and the following exceptional individuals were also inducted.

Peter Arthur (C'95) was inducted for baseball, Kim (Artim) Berke (C'99) for softball, Danielle Barber McCann (C'12) for women's basketball, Chad Bridges (C'00) for men's soccer and men's basketball, Curtis Fornarotto (C'11) for men's soccer and men's lacrosse and Brooke Gagliano (C'14) for field hockey, women's lacrosse and softball.

IMAGES COURTESY OF MARLEY WETZEL
Drew's Women's Lacrosse Team and Swim & Dive teams battles their

At the women's lacrosse game, when asked about what it was like to play against the alumni, defender Medinah Sarwari ('27) said that it was "definitely a great game and nice to see all my old teammates. Lots of laughs and fun. It was so inspiring to see my old teammates coming back with jobs and families. I am super excited for this spring season with our new freshmen."

The women's lacrosse team pummeled the alumni 18-1 in the misty rain on Saturday. "Their hips must not work like they used to," said Sarwari after the game. The men's lacrosse team had a closer game against their alumni, but in the end came out on top with a score of 17-5.

Besides alumni games, the men's and women's swim and dive teams had a tough loss against Catholic University of America on Saturday at home, with a final score for the men's team of 167-127 and for the women's team, a score of 181-90.

However, there were some silver linings in the F.M. Kirby Pool that afternoon. The men's team took seven events, with Nicholas Henio-Widell ('27) achieving three individual wins in the 50-freestyle, 100-butterfly and 200-IM (with times of 21.61, 51.79, 1:58.85, respectively).

The women's team took four individual events that afternoon. Kyra Gorman ('28) won two events: the 50-freestyle and 100-freestyle, with times of 25.81 and 56.26, respectively.

Thanks to the hard work of our athletes, current and past, Alumni Weekend was ultimately a success.

Marley Wetzel is a first-year student who is currently exploring her interests

Thank you for reading and recycling The Drew Acorn

NBA's Return to China Brings Both Excitement and Questions

Maria Teresa Bonaminio
Contributing Writer

After six long years of political tension, the U.S. National Basketball Association has finally returned to China. The Brooklyn Nets and Phoenix Suns took the stage at the Venetian Arena in Macao for the first time since 2007, symbolizing a strategic re-entry to international standoffs.

It began in 2019 with a singular tweet from the Houston Rockets executive supporting pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong. What followed was a clampdown: broadcast cancellations, lost sponsorships and inaccessibility for billions of fans. Despite the fallout, basketball remained a prominent sport in China with 300 million people actively playing.

NBA China soared after Chinese icon Yao Ming joined in 2002, creating a bridge between the East and West of the world. For 28-year-old Yun Hui, getting to watch the NBA that weekend was like reconnecting with an old friend.

Star guests like Yao Ming, Jackie Chan and Jack Ma demonstrated the league's renewed relevance in the region. Former NBA players like Stephon Marbury and Shawn Marion joined, showing loyalty to Chinese fans through autographs and photos. In fact, the figures' media presence underscores how crucial the market for NBA China is, as ESPN valued NBA China at $5 billion in 2022.

The NBA also announced a new partnership with the Chinese Basketball Association, including the development of programs and pathways for top talent to enter the league pipeline. However, the timing is not accidental; these games and relations follow a major partnership signed in late 2024 between the NBA and Alibaba (a Chinese multinational technology company that operates e-commerce marketplaces) to regain the league's presence in China.

The organization did not just return — it transformed global sports and spoke volumes about cultural and political conflicts of interest. For students studying sports marketing or international business, this is a real-world example of crisis recovery and brand diplomacy. Though tensions remain between the U.S. and China, this moment signals progress in how much power sports hold in the public sphere.

IMAGES COURTESY OFCREATIVE COMMONS
The NBA hopes for a basketball resurgence in China

Maria Teresa Bonaminio is a first-year student who is currently exploring her interests.

HIGHLIGHT REEL

OCTOBER 10 TO OCTOBER 24

INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference Athlete of the Week • MGOLF • Avery Cohen ('27)

Conference Athlete of the Week • MGOLF • Sam Dolan ('28)

nference Athlete of the Week • WGOLF • Josephine Nguyen ('28

Conference Athlete of the Week • XC • Kate Rice ('26)

Conference Athlete of the Week • XC • Tommy Edwards ('27)

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Josephine Nguyen ('28) • WGOLF • Medalist at The Melee Tournament

Kate Rice ('26) • XC • Placed 2nd out of 109 runners in "Open" Race

Marissa Guajardo ('26) • WVB • Drew All-time Leader in Total

Have an athlete you want to highlight? Submit their name, class year and accomplishment by emailing sports.theacorn@drew.edu or visiting thedrewacorn.com/submit-a-tip